In the Claims:

Please cancel claims 1-14 with prejudice.

Please add new claims 15-28 as follows:

-- 15. A process for producing a branched chain L-amino acid, comprising:

a) fermenting a bacterium in which the brnE gene or brnF gene is amplified;

b) allowing said L-amino acid to accumulate either in said bacterium or in the medium in which said bacterium is fermented; and

c) isolating said L-amino acid.

16. The process of claim 15, wherein said bacterium has been transformed with a vector for the expression of brnE, brnF, or both, wherein said vector comprises a promoter joined to a brnE or brnF coding sequence.

17. The process of claim 16, wherein said brnE or brnF coding sequence consists of nucleotides encoding a polypeptide consisting essentially of the amino acid sequence of either SEQ ID NO:3 or SEQ ID NO:5.

18. The process of claim 16, wherein said brnE or brnF coding sequence consists essentially of a nucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting of: SEQ ID NO:1; nucleotides 101-1176 of SEQ ID NO:1; SEQ ID NO:3; and SEQ ID NO:4.

19. The process of claim 18, wherein said brnE or brnF coding sequence consists of a nucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting of: SEQ ID NO:1; nucleotides 101-1176 of SEQ ID NO:1; SEQ ID NO:2; and SEQ ID NO:4.

20. The process of claim 16, wherein said brnE or brnF coding sequence consists of nucleotides encoding a polypeptide consisting essentially of the amino acid sequence encoded by either nucleotides 101-853 of SEQ ID NO:6, or nucleotides 853-1176 of SEQ ID NO:6.

21. The process of claim 16, wherein said brnE or brnF coding sequence consists essentially of a nucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting of: SEQ ID NO:6; nucleotides 101-853 of SEQ ID NO:6; and nucleotides 853-1176 of SEQ ID NO:6.

22. The process of claim 21, wherein said brnE or brnF coding sequence consists of a nucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting of: SEQ ID NO:6; nucleotides 101-853 of SEQ ID NO:6; and nucleotides 853-1176 of SEQ ID NO:6.

23. The process of claim 16, wherein said brnE or brnF coding sequence comprises:
    a) nucleotides encoding a first polypeptide consisting essentially of the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:3; and
    b) nucleotides encoding a second distinct polypeptide consisting essentially of the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:5.

24. The process of claim 16, wherein said brnE or brnF coding sequence consists essentially of the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:2 and the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:4.

25. The process of claim 24, wherein said brnE or brnF coding sequence consists of the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:2 and the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:4.

26. The process of any one of claims 15-25, wherein said bacterium is of the genus Corynebacterium.

27. The process of any one of claims 15-25, wherein said bacterium overexpresses brnE, brnF, or both.

28. The process of any one of claims 15-25, wherein said branched L-amino acid is selected from the group consisting of L-leucine; L-isoleucine; and L-valine. --